

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

FEBRUARY 5, 2013

COURTHOUSE BUDGET CUTS

Over the past five years, the California Judicial Branch has experienced ongoing reductions in State General Funds of \$535 million. These reductions have resulted in over \$475 million less funding for trial courts throughout California. In Fiscal Year 2013-14, the shortfall in Los Angeles Superior Court, when combined with local unfunded cost increases and other revenue decreases, could range from \$166 to \$195 million.

Los Angeles Superior Court has already implemented over \$110 million in cost reductions from layoffs and attrition (over 875 positions) and instituted significant cuts to non-labor operating costs throughout the court system. The impact of the State's actions has negatively impacted our constituents, created backlogs throughout the court system, and will undoubtedly delay access to justice.

The unresolved shortfall projected for Los Angeles Superior Court in FY 2013/14 is between \$56 and \$85 million. Recently, the Court announced plans to close the Huntington Park, Whittier, Pomona North, Malibu, West Los Angeles, Beverly Hills, San Pedro, Beacon Street, Catalina and Kenyon Juvenile Justice Courthouses. Small claims and unlawful detainer cases will be consolidated from 26 locations to 5 and 6 respectively. Collections cases will be consolidated from 24 locations to 2 locations. All probate, personal injury and limited civil cases will be heard only in the Stanley Mosk Courthouse in downtown Los Angeles.

The court closures will require witnesses, victims and jurors to travel further, stay in court longer and likely make repeated visits to unfamiliar and overcrowded court locations. Moreover, civil cases will be delayed which will create a hardship on local business owners, contractors, tenants and landlords seeking justice.

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MOTION

MOLINA _____

YAROSLAVSKY _____

KNABE _____

ANTONOVICH _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors send a five-signature letter to the Governor and State Legislature expressing strong opposition to the Governor's proposed reductions to the trial courts and requesting funding sufficient to avoid further staff reduction, courtroom and courthouse closures.

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